



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 199625136

Date: April 18, 2002

Comments Due: May 18, 2002

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to construct a whitewater park on the Truckee River near Wingfield Park in Reno, Nevada to enhance recreation. The placement of drop structures and excavation of pools would impact approximately 5 acres of waters of the United States as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: City of Reno
Attention: Nancy MacCartney, Reno Parks Director
925 Riverside Drive
Reno, Nevada 89503
775-334-6265

LOCATION: The proposed project is located on the Truckee River within a portion of Section 11, Township 19 North, Range 19 East, M.D.B. & M., Reno, Washoe County, Nevada (Drawing Sheet 1). The project will require construction on Wingfield Island and within 50 feet of the Arlington Avenue Bridge across the Truckee River.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Truckee River Whitewater Park project is to improve recreation opportunities of the Truckee River.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The length of the project is approximately 1400 feet. Of this, approximately 100 feet is above Wingfield Island, 200 feet below the island, and 1100 feet each in the north and south channels (Drawing Sheet 2). This reach of the Truckee River is in the heart of downtown Reno.

Wingfield Park is an island with pedestrian bridges connecting it from both banks of the river. It has an outdoor amphitheater and sodded park area. The Arlington Dam and fish ladder are across the north channel upstream of Arlington Avenue that has large boulders and debris at the base of the drop. The boulders and debris create an entrapment hazard and can damage recreational equipment. Pedestrian/bike trails are located on both sides of the river in most areas but are isolated from the river by the vertical concrete walls and do not connect under the bridges.

Upstream of Wingfield Park, the river is broad with low gradient and shallow cobble bottom. A narrow formal park and trail are located along the north bank with rock gabion walls and railing separating the park from the river in most of the area. The south bank is high and has a parking area at Barbara Bennett Park on the south side of the river. From Arlington Avenue to Sierra Street, the river is confined within concrete walls and has a moderate gradient and a wide channel. The project will not effect the Virginia Street Bridge. With the exception of the parkland and trees at Wingfield Park, bank vegetation, in-stream boulders, drops and pools are missing. This area is visible from both sides of the river and from numerous bridges.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project consists of 26,932 cubic yards of fill, and 58,986 cubic yards of excavation. Drawing Sheets 3 through 15 illustrate the proposed project. The following is a narrative of the proposed project.

Boulder V-Weirs

Five boulder V-weirs will be constructed using three to five foot diameter boulders at each location. V-weirs will extend across the entire channel and be anchored to each stream bank. Boulders will be anchored to the bed and banks to insure they will withstand flood flows. Two to four-foot pools will be excavated and lined with rock below each structure, with pool depth gradually decreasing in the downstream direction to form the pool tail-out. The resulting pool will provide plunge-pool habitat and will be scoured with sediment during high flows. The drop associated with each V-weir will dissipate stream energy and aerate the water. In addition to rock, there will be concrete grout pumped into the low-flow areas of these structures to hold them in place. Construction of the boulder V-weirs will require dewatering of the Truckee River. Temporary cofferdams and pumps will be used to dewater the area.

Boulder Placement

Four to eight foot diameter boulders will be placed at strategic locations below plunge pools to enhance the habitat and recreational quality of the riffle.

Current Deflectors

One angled current deflector will be installed at the upstream and downstream limits of the project. These deflectors will provide eddies for safe river ingress and regress. Boulders will be anchored into the bank and bed of the river.

Double current deflectors will be installed at four locations. These will be constructed by placing two angled current deflectors opposite to each other. These structures concentrate water to allow for safe recreational use and fish passage during low flows (100 to 300 cfs).

Floodwall Modification and Stabilization

Portions of the floodwalls on Wingfield Island will be modified and stabilized. The modifications will allow for safe ingress and regress; safe access to the water's edge for fishing and viewing; and will enhance channel capacity to compensate for the boulder fill materials.

The toe of the existing floodwalls will be stabilized with single or double rows of three-foot diameter boulders below the ordinary high water line. Along the floodwalls, the boulders will provide assurances against undercutting. Along the island, the boulders will provide safe and stable platforms from which to access the water.

Floodwalls on the western end of the island will be reconfigured in a terraced design down to the river's edge to better integrate the river into the surrounding areas. The reconfiguration will compensate for the addition of rock into the channels.

Pedestrian/Bike Path

A concrete path is proposed to extend from the east side of Wingfield Island under the northern Arlington Bridge and up onto the west side of the island (Drawing Sheet 5).

This path system will provide connectivity of the park and reduce pedestrian congestion on Arlington Avenue.

Sleeves for Removable Slalom Gates

The proposed project includes installation of sub-grade steel sleeves to support removable slalom gates in the southern channel. The sleeves to support the removable support poles for the slalom gates will be installed after the drop and pool structures are in place as a component to the final landscaping. The sleeves will be sub-grade with locking caps and will be installed outside of the waters of the U.S. These sub-grade sleeves will have no effect on the river channel hydraulics.

Dam Removal

Arlington Dam and fish ladder will be removed. The dam is constructed of concrete blocks and large boulders. The fish ladder is non functional.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and its monthly supplements have been reviewed and there are no places either listed or recommended as eligible which would be affected.

This activity would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.

The District Engineer has made this determination based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **May 18, 2002**. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against

its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

If additional information is required, please write to Ms. Shelly Carter at our Nevada Regulatory Office, C. Clifton Young Federal Building, 300 Booth Street, Room 2103, Reno, Nevada 89509, telephone (775) 784-5304, FAX (775) 784-5306.

Michael J. Conrad, Jr.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures: Drawings